

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 000731

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Denktas Hesitates: I'll probably go to NY - Hurriyet  
Papadopoulos will go to NY, but makes no promises - Hurriyet  
Annan urges Cypriot sides for referenda on April 21 - Vatan  
First Cyprus round on February 10 - Turkiye  
Denktas to NY, but with a 'protest letter' in hand -  
Milliyet  
Boucher denies reports on US aspiration for base in Cyprus -  
Vatan  
Tenet acknowledges Iraq was not 'imminent threat' - Sabah  
Shiite leader Sistani survives assassination attempt - Sabah

##### OPINION MAKERS

Ankara strives to convince Denktas - Radikal  
Athens, Greek Cypriots ready for Cyprus talks - Zaman  
US demands military base in Cyprus - Cumhuriyet  
Tough warning from Barzani to Erbil attackers - Cumhuriyet  
Bremer pledges full cooperation with UN - Zaman  
US foresees new military role for Turkey in Middle East -  
Cumhuriyet  
Intelligence scandal shakes Blair - Radikal  
Reformists cave in Iran - Cumhuriyet  
Sharon questioned in bribery scandal - Zaman

#### BRIEFING

Cyprus: UNSG Annan has invited Cypriot leaders Denktas and Papadopoulos to New York on February 10 for peace negotiations on Cyprus. Annan urged the sides to go agree to a negotiation timetable that would lead to referenda on the UN blueprint on April 21. Denktas continues to be bothered by the referendum condition, but will travel to New York for talks on the UN-sponsored peace plan for reunifying Cyprus. "Milliyet" reports, however, that Denktas will show up in New York with a 'protest paper' in hand. Papers report that State Department Spokesman Boucher denied Turkish press stories claiming that the US aspires to set up a military base in Cyprus.

Amnesty offer for terrorists expires: The Turkish government's amnesty offer for defectors from terror organizations expires today. The law was passed under American pressure, and the US had agreed to take political, economic and military action against the PKK following today's deadline, according to "Milliyet." The TGS has set up a special unit headed by General Kalyoncu to push the Americans to take military action against the terror organization. Ankara has reached an accord with Syria and Iran for prospective military operations against fleeing terrorists.

US tailors new security role for Turkey: The US is preparing Turkey to take an active role in its strategy of military intervention in the Middle East and its outposts, according to "Cumhuriyet." Washington will consider ways to reinforce the military presence of NATO on the Ankara-Cairo axis. With seven new members to join NATO at the Istanbul Summit in June, the 26-strong alliance will shift to the Morocco-Afghanistan axis. Turkey will take a role similar to that of West Germany during the Cold War, but in a

different geographical area, the paper claims.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Cyprus

##### "The Aftermath of the Erbil Terror Attack"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal Milliyet (2/6): "The recent terrorist attacks against KDP and PUK headquarters in northern Iraq have resulted in much speculation. Among the various theories, the Al Qaida connection now seems most likely. Nevertheless, more time and evidence are needed to verify Al Qaida's involvement and intentions. For the larger picture, the Erbil attacks lead us to the following conclusions: Northern Iraq had been the safest part of Iraq since the beginning of the war. The Erbil incident marks a new beginning in this respect, making northern Iraq a more dangerous place where Pandora's box has been opened. The terrorist attacks in Iraq so far have targeted the UN and the coalition partners, particularly the US. Yet the recent attack shows that local institutions as well as local people have become new targets for terrorism. . The bloody incidents in Erbil have accelerated the nationalist tone among the Kurdish population. Many Kurdish leaders are using the Erbil incident as a pretext to argue the urgent need for Kurdish autonomy. . If terrorist attacks in northern Iraq continue, they would pose a serious threat in the region, including for renewed ethnic conflict and the possibility of new PKK attacks."

##### "Tough Decision for Denktas"

Sedat Ergin noted in the mass appeal Hurriyet (2/6): "Denktas finds himself in a very crucial dilemma. If he goes to New York, he will have to agree with the Annan Plan in its entirety. If he does not, he will find himself blamed for undermining the solution process as well as burning his bridges with Turkey's AKP government. Ankara has given UNSG Kofi Annan a 'blank check' in the Cyprus negotiations and has been urging Denktas to go to New York. . It seems that Athens has taken sides with Ankara and accepted the UN conditions for the settlement procedure. The two key actors, Denktas and Papadopoulos, are still trying to see what the other will do. According to Denktas, Papadopoulos will eventually agree to attend the New York meetings, because, as Denktas says, 'the Annan Plan favors him.' No matter what happens, this is the most critical period on the Cyprus issue."

DEUTSCH